

# Work-Based Learning Options for High School Students

► THE PARENT SERIES



Utah Career  
Resource Network

## What are Other Ways My Child Can Experience Careers?

Work-based learning experiences provide answers to the questions, "Why do I have to learn this?" and "Would I want to make this job a career?" By working beside professionals, your child will learn what it takes to enter and be successful in his or her field of interest.

Your child may have the opportunity to participate in other activities that provide exposure to the world of work. These activities may include:

- Career Fairs
- Guest Speakers
- Field Studies



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# Why Should My Child Have Work-Based Learning Experiences While in High School?

## WBL Experiences Help Students Make Informed Career Choices

High school WBL experiences provide answers to the questions, "Why do I have to learn this?" and "Would I want to make this job a career?" WBL experiences help your child select a career wisely and prepare realistically for the world of work. By working beside experienced professionals, your child will learn what it takes to enter and be successful in his or her field of interest.

There are many ways for your child to learn. Your child can learn in the classroom, but sometimes learning becomes more meaningful when it is performed in a real work setting.

High school work-based learning (WBL) experiences, provide an opportunity for your child to relate what he or she is learning in school to the world of work.

In addition, high school WBL experiences can provide skills that may not be as easily learned in the classroom.

**For example:**

- Time management and meeting deadlines

- Following directions

- Problem-solving

- Interpersonal communication

- Responsibility

- Leadership working on a team

In order for your child's high school WBL experience to be meaningful and valuable, it should:

- Relate to your child's interests
  - Help your child see what working life is like
  - Help your child discover his or her likes and dislikes
  - Help your child find his or her strengths and weaknesses
  - Help your child recognize the value of his or her academic learning

- **Cooperative Work Experience:** High school cooperative work experience programs provide job-related classroom instruction in combination with on-the-job instruction. In addition to other required courses, your child receives part-time employment at a job relating to his or her career choice, and in-school classroom instruction relating specifically and generally to his or her job and the world of work. In the work experience class, your child would receive school credit for both work-related classroom instruction and for his or her work experience in a real work setting.

- **Youth Apprenticeship:** The youth apprenticeship program combines on-the-job training with classroom instruction. An apprenticeship will last from two to five years, with only one or two years taking place while your child is in high school.

## WHAT WBL EXPERIENCES OPTIONS EXIST FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS?

Your child has many options for participating in high school work-based learning.

**Job Shadowing:** In a job shadow experience your child observes a worker for part of a day or for several days, at the worker's job site. The job shadowing experience is a short, unpaid exposure to the workplace in an occupational area of interest to your child.

**Service-Learning:** When your child participates in service-learning, he or she provides a service to the community and completes a school-based project that applies academic learning to the community service project. Your child should be asked to reflect on his or her personal and career interests related to the service learning project.

**School-Based Enterprises:** Your child may want to participate in running a small business that is operated at the school. *Junior Achievement* is one such organization that often sets up school-based enterprises that allow students to learn business operations such as managing costs, ordering supplies, working under pressure, conserving supplies and maintaining facilities. Your child's school may also allow students to operate the student store, or to organize a fundraiser.

**High School Internships:** Internships provide structured, on-the-job work activities that complement classroom learning. Your child may earn credit for participating in an internship.

## ARE THERE WORK-RELATED CLASSES, CLUBS OR ASSOCIATIONS AVAILABLE AT MY CHILD'S SCHOOL?

In addition to career and technical education classes that provide academic subject matter taught with relevance to the real world, many high schools provide classes, clubs, or association memberships.

**Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs)** provide a unique program of career and leadership development, motivation and recognition of students enrolled in career and technical programs.

In Utah, the following student leadership organizations are available through the areas of study in Career and Technical Education:

- **DECA**—Marketing Education
- **FBLA**—Business Education
- **FCCLA**—Family and Consumer Science
- **FFA**—Agriculture Education
- **HOSA**—Health Science and Technology Education
- **SkillsUSA**—Trade and Technical Education
- **TSA**—Technology and Engineering Education